

Hazards

Numerous life safety hazards associated with a post fire landscape remain. These hazards include:

Dead and Dying Trees

While BMDSF has been subject to a large-scale hazard tree removal operation, many dead and dying trees remain that pose a significant life safety hazard. These trees are quickly losing structural integrity due to decay. Please maintain awareness of your surroundings and stay on numbered roads.

Heat

Due to the loss of the forest canopy, the heat hazard at BMDSF during the summer months can be severe. Please bring water with you while recreating.

Slips and Falls

The fire and subsequent erosion has resulted in loose broken ground across much of the landscape. Uneven ground and burned out stump holes pose hazards. Please stay on numbered roads for your own safety.

Wildlife

Wildlife has returned to BMDSF along with associated hazards. Some of the species present on the forest include: deer, coyotes, foxes, wild pigs, rattlesnakes, and black bears. Please maintain a safe distance from all wildlife.

History and Background of Program

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) operates 8 Demonstration State Forests, totaling 71,000 acres. These forests represent some of the most common forest types across California. Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF) was established from cutover forest land purchased from the Calso Company by the State of California in 1949. The intention of this property is to demonstrate the management of a Coast Range, Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer forest.

The land base for the State Forest Program was acquired through purchases and donations of cutover and damaged timberland. According to the Public Resources Code, the primary purpose of the State Forest System is the demonstration of economical forest management and the land base is legislatively mandated to be retained in timber production for research and demonstration purposes.

In September of 2015 the Valley Fire burned through 99% of the property killing 80% of the mature trees and 95% of the understory regeneration. After the fire BMDSF was closed to the public and a large-scale reforestation plan, the like of which the program had not seen since its founding, was put into action.

Reforestation Plan at Boggs

The reforestation plan at BMDSF began with a forest-wide salvage logging operation to recover the value of the damaged timber. Though most of the trees were killed in the fire, the structural integrity of the wood remained, and the dead trees were cut and hauled to local saw mills to produce wood products.

The primary timber species on BMDSF have historically been Ponderosa Pine, Douglas-fir, and Sugar Pine. Douglas-fir is primarily used in building applications for structural framing and beams, while Ponderosa and Sugar Pine are often used for interior paneling and doors. The funds for the State Forest Program come from the sale of the timber harvested from the properties. The money from the sale of these trees was put back into replanting, fuels treatment, and road upgrades on BMDSF.

As part of the reforestation plan 702,695 tree seedlings were planted across approximately 3,100 acres of the property. The planted species included Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, Sugar Pine, Incense Cedar, and Giant Sequoia. The distribution and spacing of these seedlings was based on the forest inventory data from before the fire, with the intention of replicating the historic pre-fire forest structure.

The reforestation of this property included thousands of work hours from BMDSF Forestry Staff, Boggs Mountain Helitack, CAL FIRE engine crews, CAL FIRE inmate crews, and numerous private contractors. With the reopening of the property volunteer opportunities can be arranged through the Friends of Boggs Mountain as BMDSF transitions back into a public space.